

## FRENCH CONNECTION

Courvosier, Grand Marnier, straight up

Maybe he thought I was  
blind in both eyes and  
equally as dumb. As if  
I didn't notice his meeting  
the same people every Monday  
night for a nightcap and  
a quick trip to the Men's.  
His fancy airs, drinks and  
distainful condescension were  
supposed to all be forgotten  
by a folded portrait of our  
sixteenth president under his  
brandy snifter when the deal  
was completed and another  
appointment on his card was  
about to be filled.

My memory improved when  
the plainclothes guy showed  
me one of his pictures in a  
book. "Oh, yeah, that's Frenchie,  
the crack dealer with the  
weak kidneys." Last I heard  
he was doing hard time in a  
place of poor quality.

— Alan Catlin

Schenectady NY

## A BELIEF OF MINE

I think that  
clarity  
is as necessary to poetry  
as water is  
to the human body.

## LOVE AND SLEEP

Borders  
you can cross  
naked.

## LANTERN

## ELBOW

A crane  
for  
beer.

It's bravery  
that makes  
the future  
possible.

— Peter Bakowski

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